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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

The latest buzz

Port Colborne residents donned running shoes and shaved their heads to raise money for the Terry Fox Run. Page 10

Stomping out poverty

In the annual mayor's grape stop in St. Catharines, the lakeside city's mayor came out on top for food raised. Page 17

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Therapy on four legs



FRANKI KEMAN/
POSTMEDIA
NETWORK
Jackson
Wyatt, 14,
weaves
through
cones with
the guidance
of instructor
Angie
Ruijgrok
during his
lesson at
EquineAbility
Saturday
in Port
Colborne.
See story
and photos
on page 2.

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UPFRONT

■ THERAPY: EquineAbility Niagara teaching students with different abilities to ride

Empowerment through horses

FRANKI IKEMAN

Postmedia Network

For the Wyatt family Saturday mornings are spent waking up early and heading to the barn.

The family volunteers at EquineAbility's Port Colborne farm, where they muck stalls, help with chores and take care of the horses.

"Our family of six has been volunteering here for the better part of a year, and it's been the most positive and transformative experience," Lianne Wyatt said. "Ours is a special needs family. My husband, my two sons all have a diagnosis of autism and ADHD and my eldest daughter has a diagnosis of anxiety and OCD and we find when we come here, those symptoms that trouble them tend to dissipate."

The children are involved in the therapeutic riding program at EquineAbility in some way. Wyatt's two sons, Jackson and Matthew, take weekly lessons and her eldest daughter, Olivia, volunteers leading students in the program, and is hoping to get her Equine Therapy certification eventually. Her youngest daughter, Rachel, is not a part of the therapeutic riding but does take lessons and volunteers her time at the farm.

At first the family got involved simply to spend time with horses.

"The riding came as an afterthought, but the benefits have been unbelievable," she said. "We've watched core strength develop in Matthew, we've watched it build self-confidence and self-esteem."

"The kids come home feeling more capable. It's incredible, they're really grown to love it."

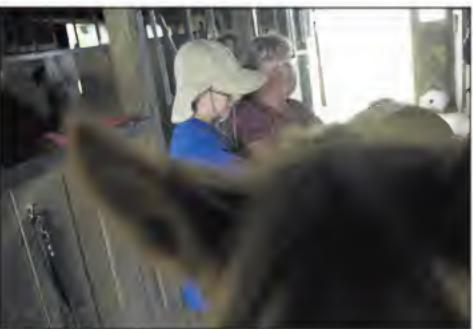
Wyatt said in terms of social development, her children are interacting with the horses in special way to allow them to communicate more effectively.

"Something about horses really touches people on a soul-deep level, and we have yet to find anything like this so we're really excited to be here," she said. "To be able



PHOTOS BY FRANKI IKEMAN/
POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Above: Jackson Wyatt, 14, trots with the guidance of instructor Angie Ruigrok during his lesson at EquineAbility Saturday in Port Colborne.
Right: Matthew Wyatt, 12, groomed Cowboy at EquineAbility Saturday in Port Colborne



to care for a horse, being the majestic beast that it is, I think it's really empowering."

Angie Ruigrok founded EquineAbility in 2010, and

had been teaching therapeutic riding for about 10 years before that. She is a certified intermediate instructor with the Canadian Therapeutic

Riding Association, and her program follows the guidelines set out by the association for therapeutic riding.

"Therapeutic riding is rid-

ing for individuals with varying abilities," Ruigrok said. "But it's recreational riding, so we teach how to ride a horse to whatever ability they can

and that can vary."

Ruigrok said she has students in her program at all ends of the spectrum, from those who need to be led around entirely to those who are nearly show-ready.

"It's not all individual, it's based on the rider's abilities and their goals," she said.

The students spend 30 minutes in the ring on horseback working on a variety of exercises, followed by 15 minutes in the barn learning day-to-day horse care skills such as grooming, tacking and harn

care. The horses are not typical lesson horses either. Ruigrok said.

She said even the quietest and most frightened person horse or pony would take about six months to learn what is being asked of them as a therapeutic riding horse.

"The biggest thing is we ask them to not only listen to the rider's aids, but there's a lot they need to learn to ignore," Ruigrok said, "because a lot of our riders, they may have tons, they may be fidgety in the saddle, so they need to be able to tolerate all of those extra sensations and he able to pick out which of those sensations are asking for something and which ones are just kind of that background noise of the rider."

"It does take a special kind of horse to be that tolerant."

EquineAbility recently held its annual horse show, an opportunity for riders in the program to show off their skills, get some feedback and a taste for competition in a low-pressure atmosphere.

"It's a ton of fun. The riders really enjoy it, they get to show off for their family, their friends, whoever they want to come and see them and at the same time get a little bit of feedback on how they're doing. It's very low-key," Ruigrok said.

For more information on EquineAbility visit www.equineabilityniagara.com.

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LOCAL NEWS

HEALTH CARE

Business has say in NHS plan

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

Access to local hospitals ought to be included in a vision of health care that will spur the growth of Niagara Health System for the next decade.

That was the message from about a dozen Welland area business representatives who shared their thoughts about a vision statement proposed by the NHS, as part of the development of a new strategic plan.

"I would like to see something in there about close proximity or something saying that communities could have and be entitled to have a hospital," said Faye Sutthons, from Welland business Write for You.

She was one of several people at the meeting who shared similar thoughts during the meeting, organized in cooperation with Welland-Pelham Chamber of Commerce at Fuzzy Logic restaurant.

Consultant Richard Delaney from Delaney and Associates led the discussion about the strategic plan development and vision statement.

The proposed document speaks of providing the best care possible for patients, but Len Stolk from Stolk Construction said access could be a barrier to achieving that goal.

"It's hard to be the best when people feel that they can't access [services] easily."

"You have a new hospital in St. Catharines, and it's fine for cancer treatment or something major ... but for minor ailments, a sick child with a fever or something like that, it's a big trip to go."

The last line of the proposed vision statement is: "Compassion is, and always will be, our core."

But Welland resident Maggie Murray

NIAGARA HEALTH SYSTEM PROPOSED VISION STATEMENT

"Each day we dedicate ourselves to our patients and their families, as if we were family too."

"Staff, physicians and volunteers are empowered to collaborate as trusted partners, together with patients, families and NHS health partners, to produce the best health outcomes possible. We continue to learn, improve and innovate to provide the best care possible for patients in their time of need."

"We meet challenges with excitement, passion, integrity and professionalism. 'Compassion is, and always will be, our core.'

pointed out: "If you don't have accessibility, where is the compassion?"

NHS board member Bunny Alexander said the strategic plan is part of a "huge renewal" for the health system.

"We're looking for your input into the development of our 10-year plan," Alexander said. "It sounds like a long way out but that's where we need to be looking."

"This is our first real strategic plan for the Niagara Health System," she added.

Although the health system has developed plans in the past, there was "never anything as significant as what we're doing now."

Fast plans, Alexander added, did not include input from the community.

"This is new and very important." She said the plan will serve as "a map for our future," describing it as "an expression of how we, as staff, volunteers, physicians and the board, will create the future that we want to see for health care



Kerry Guarin from the YMCA shares ideas about the development of a new strategic plan for the Niagara Health System, during a stakeholder meeting organized by the Welland-Pelham Chamber of Commerce, Monday. Pictured with Guarin are, from left, Dan Lynch from BioLinc and NHS board member Bunny Alexander, on Monday.

in Niagara."

And developing a vision statement is the first step towards developing that strategic plan.

"Once we know where we're going then we'll look at how do we behave, what are the values that we'll use to operate the NHS,"

she said. "Then we'll decide what are the goals that we need to set and how are we going to measure it to achieve the desired future."

In addition to community stakeholder meetings, NHS spokesman Brady Wood said, the health system is also planning a

series of 10 public meetings in the months to come to hear from the community as well.

Wood said the strategic plan

would be complete in 2016.

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I'VE BEEN THINKING

Life is precious even in disability or distress

FATHER DAVID GRAHAM SCOTT
Priest of Antioch Orthodox Church

I never heard of the novelist Jojo Moyes and my sister loaned me the book *Me Before You*.

This is a novel that is inspiring, funny and heart-breaking. It's about Louisa, a laid-back, chatty ex-waitress, and Will, an intense ex-taekwon, and their families.

The two young adults are brought together by Louisa's employment as a paid companion to Will, whose days as a high-powered executive, world traveller and athlete were abruptly ended by a traffic accident that left him a quadriplegic.

Louisa's contract is for six months and pays very well. But she begins to feel that six months is far too long a time to relate to the

bitter and uncommunicative Will. For his part Will finds his confinement to a wheelchair intolerable after his zestful years of big-time deal-making.

Louisa finds out that Will had recently tried to commit suicide. Her six-month contract is a compromise between Will and his family. He would wait that long if they would help him travel to Switzerland for assisted suicide.

Louisa decides she will do her best to convince Will that he can still find a new life even with his disabilities. Despite Will's plans to end his life, Louisa eventually manages to thaw some of Will's icy rejection of life, and Will encourages Louisa to start putting herself first and to make something of herself.

I leave the plot there. The novel is a page-turner. And it made me think about modern

people who seem invincibly unaware of Christian faith. The families in *Me Before You* show no connection with church or even with any philosophy such as once guided politicians like Cicero and Marcus Aurelius.

Even so, Louisa's mother is shocked that Will's family would agree to enable his suicide after six months, but Jojo Moyes gives no indication why she felt so strongly against euthanasia. Will's parents live increasingly separate lives, his mother a brittle justice of the peace and his father a well-to-do manager involved in his office.

The characters in the novel seem either motivated by no more than career success or are concerned only to get by as they drift through life. Without faith in the God who created human beings in his own image, they show no awareness of innate human

dignity and worth.

For Will, confinement to a wheelchair means the end of any meaningful life. And yet even Stephen Hawking continues to research and write, even to travel, and Hawking is more confined than Will, who speaks without effort.

In early childhood Helen Keller was blinded and made deaf by a disease. Yet with Annie Sullivan's fingers to help, Helen learned Braille, which became her eyes and her ears and she graduated from Radcliffe College and campaigned worldwide for the disabled.

Life is precious and meaningful even in disability or distress.

Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly."

Shipwrecks – Pengall

Skip Gillham
For Postmedia Network

Pengall was a French flag bulk carrier that had been built at La Seyne in 1959.

The 172.5-metre-long vessel was diesel powered and able to carry in the range of 19,500 tonnes of cargo.

The ship did not come through the St. Lawrence Seaway until 1970 and was sold for Greek flag service in 1974. Renamed *Queen of Cephalonia*, the ship sustained heavy bottom damage during a grounding at Rothesay Bay in the British Isles off the coast of East Germany on Sept. 15, 1975.

The vessel was refloated on Sept. 24 and laid up at Dunkirk, France. It was not economically feasible to repair the ship so, after being idle, it was sold to shipbreakers in Spain.

Queen of Cephalonia departed under tow on April 28, 1977. It arrived at Bilbao, Spain, on May 3 where, beginning in June, the hull was dismantled for recycling by Hierros Ardes.

HANDOUT/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Pengall is shown in Sault Ste. Marie in 1970 in this Tom Marise photo, courtesy of Roger LeLievre.



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Man dies swimming in lake at Sherkston Shores

The body of a male

swimmer was recovered from Lake Erie in east Port Colborne Saturday morning after the man drowned while swimming with friends, said Niagara Regional Police.

Police said they responded to a call at 10:44 a.m. The man was swimming at Sherkston Shores when he went under and was taken by some rough water.

Police said they were not able to give an age or name of the man, but said he was not a child.

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ELECTON NOTEBOOK

Fringe candidates vying for Niagara Centre

Ballots for voters in the Niagara Centre riding have grown by a few more candidates.

Ron Walker has returned to represent the Communist Party of Canada.

Jody DiBartolomeo signed on last week to run for the

Animal Alliance Environment Voters Party of Canada, which became registered as a federal political party in late 2005.

Walker, who registered a few weeks ago, is no stranger to campaigning, having represented the Marxist-Leninist in

the area for 10 previous elections. He earned 71 votes in the 2011 election.

DiBartolomeo represented the New Democratic Part in 2004 and 2006, and ran as an independent in 2008, earning 569 votes.

Niagara Centre election ballots also include Green Party candidate David Clow, Vance Badaway for the Liberals, Conservative candidate Leanna Villella, and incumbent New Democratic candidate Malcolm Allan.



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■ EDUCATION

Catholic school board enrolment increases

WAYNE CAMPBELL
For Postmedia Network

Niagara Catholic schools welcomed 221 more students than expected when the new school year started.

The increase raised Niagara Catholic District School Board enrolment to 21,951 in the elementary and secondary schools.

The elementary sector led the way when 309 more students than budgeted registered, to increase enrolment to 16,100.

Secondary schools saw a drop of 100 students, to 7,148.

Education director John Crocco said the decrease in high school students was partly caused by students leaving the region, switching to college programs or going into apprenticeship programs.

The increase in elementary registration was from families moving into the

area.

For the past six years, the Catholic board has provided a summer telephone registration service. Signs in front of schools advertise the phone number, staff at the schools office take the calls and register students.

People familiar with the Catholic system can sign up as they move into the area, Crocco said.

"They don't have to wait and we don't lose them."

With the increase in enrolment, all teachers with the board have jobs.

At the end of June, a shuffle normally takes place with teachers retiring or departing as board administrators estimate September enrolment numbers. Some teachers are laid off.

The increased enrolment led to a recall of all full-time teachers and could mean hiring a few more assistants, staff told the trustees.

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UNION BANK

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LOCAL NEWS

CHARITY

United Way announces 2015 target

FRANKI KEMAN
Postmedia Network

United Way South Niagara has kicked off its 2015 fundraising campaign.

With a goal of \$650,000 — the same goal as was set for the 2014 campaign — the organization is working on engaging with the community to encourage people to dig deep and to give.

At a kick-off breakfast last week, United Way South Niagara executive director Tamara Coleman-Lawrie announced the campaign target, and spoke to a room full of guests and dignitaries about the prevalence of poverty in the region.

She said it continues to be important that people understand what the United Way

does and support the organization in investing into services in the community that are working to help those in need.

"I think it's really around understanding that holistic approach to everything, you know," Coleman-Lawrie said in an interview after the event. "We can wrap services around people and all of the agencies that are providing care can work together to work around the system to system that's really going to move an individual in need to move towards lifelong success."

On board for this year's campaign as donor matches are John and Rebecca Clark, owners of M.T. Bellies and Riverstone Event Centre. They will be matching donations by new donors up to \$20,000.

They also continue to hold their annual It's a Wonderful Life event as a fundraiser for the United Way.

"We experienced some hardship in our lives there and at a time when things were looking a little bleak for us, support from some great friends and the community in masse that supported us spiritually, monetarily ... and we just found the right thing to do to say that back," said John Clark.

Milan Plentai, senior investment adviser at Plentai-Lewis Wealth Management Group, a branch of National Bank is on as this year's leadership match, pledging to match donations from new business donors up to \$20,000.

While speaking at last week's



John and Rebecca Clark speak at United Way South Niagara's 2015 campaign kick-off at Sparrow Lakes Golf Club on Wednesday.

breakfast, Plentai said that fundraising efforts have been increasingly difficult due to the loss of large industries with deep pockets that the community could go to.

"We need to think outside

the box," he said.

Among several other speakers at the event was Stacy Terry, executive director of Distress Centre Niagara, who spoke to the necessity of United Way funds for her

organization — which offers support to people in crisis.

Terry took the crowd through what a typical night at the centre might sound like — outlining some of the different issues people call in to talk about and how volunteers can help.

She said to people wondering where their dollars go when they donate to the United Way, "34 times a day or 240 times a year, those dollars go right into the community," referring to the average number of calls the centre receives.

To learn more or to donate visit www.unitedwaysouthniagara.ca or call 905-735-0490.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ TERRY FOX: Port Colborne hosts annual Terry Fox run and head shave

Big buzz in Port

FRANKIE IKEMAN
Postmedia Network

There's a big pile of hair left over by the end of the Terry Fox head shave wrap-up Sunday in Port Colborne.

About 35 people sat and had their heads shaved simultaneously to raise money for the annual run in support of cancer research, continuing

the Marathon of Hope the late Terry Fox started 35 years ago when he began his run across Canada to raise money and awareness.

Spirits were high at Port Colborne High School as the shavers sat in chairs and said goodbye to their long locks.

Cancer survivor and long-time Terry Fox Run partici-

pant Randy Chamberlain had been growing his hair out since last year in anticipation of Sunday's countdown day. Unable to do the run himself this year — though he says he's expecting to be out there for it next year — Chamberlain said shaving his head was a way that he could still participate and do his part.



FRANKIE IKEMAN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Autumn Chevrette shaves her head at the annual Terry Fox head shave and run at Port Colborne High School on Sunday.

"It doesn't matter what kind of shape you're in, how old you are, how young you are, how healthy you are. You can always just do something to help somebody else," Chamberlain said.

With one son watching and another one with clippers in hand, Chamberlain watched as his longer than shoulder-

length hair fell to the floor. He said he was a little bit tired, but that it was great to be out for the event.

"I'm great. It's a sunny day and I'm on the right side of the grass," Chamberlain said. "Can't be any happier than that."

A few chairs down, 15-year-old Autumn Chevrette shaved

her own head for the first time. She said she just felt it was important to raise awareness and money for cancer research.

"It's a really important cause and I just feel really passionate about it," Chevrette said.

She couldn't stop touching her newly bald head.

"I feel five pounds lighter," she said with a laugh. "I feel awesome, I feel just amazing. It's such an empowering moment."

Event organizer Nancy Salvage said she was happy with the way the 2015 run turned out.

"I enjoy it every year and this year was no exception," Salvage said.

Port Colborne had hoped to break the Guinness World Record for having 269 heads, but Salvage wasn't upset about missing that target.

"Well, we were shooting for a world record, it was pretty tough to hope to get 268 people, but we had to say we had for five years that we were going to try, so we gave it a shot," Salvage said. "We're having fun, and we're doing it for the right reasons."

Salvage joined the party and shaved her head, with a big smile on her face as hair was buzzed away. She said she was grateful to all those that came out.

"Every single person that comes out to participate I truly appreciate and it's one of my best days of the year."

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■ ACCOLADES

John Turner to receive NPCA environmental award

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

Former Canadian prime minister John Turner today is to receive Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's first Water and Environmental Leadership Award.

Turner served as Canada's 17th prime minister from June 30 to Sept. 17 in 1984, minister to the environment from 1968 to 1972 and will be the first environmental award he has received.

NPCA has chosen him as its first recipient because of his environmental work.

"He has a national interest with the environment — always a lot of passion for the Great Lakes and water. We wanted to recognize his national passion towards the environment," said CAO Carmen D'Angelo.

NPCA is hosting its award gala at Queen's Landing in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Meanwhile, NPCA is establishing a scholarship with Brock University. The scholarship will be given to a second-year

Brock student pursuing environmental studies. Money raised through seat sales for the gala will go towards the scholarship and a scholarship will be \$5,000 for its first year.

Other money raised will go towards funding different programs run by NPCA.

The venue is small and there are 160 seats available with limited seating left. Tickets are \$300, but guests will receive a \$200 tax receipt.

NPCA usually hosts a golf tournament to raise money, but D'Angelo said there are too many golf tournaments to compete with. The authority decided to host a gala instead.

"We wanted to be creative and do something different. We wanted to establish an environmental leadership award," D'Angelo said.

In the future the award will be given to local residents, agencies or companies.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **INTEREST:** Feline initiative is providing Jobs4Cats

Finding homes for diverse cats

MICHELLE ALLENBERG

Postmedia Network

If you want a hardworking cat, look no further.

Port Colborne Feline Initiative's Jobs4Cats launched recently and is aiming to give certain cats a nontraditional home.

The feline initiative is a non-profit organization that finds homes for all its feline friends. The cats the organization traps in the region are neutered, vaccinated and returned to where they are found. If the area in which they are trapped isn't suitable, the organization tries to find homes or relocate them.

The cats that aren't suited for a traditional indoor home will be placed in the Jobs4Cats program.

Kristi Vogel of the Port Colborne Feline Initiative hopes to have those cats adopted by people who have rural properties.

"They might be a handful, but that will help them out in many different ways — providing environmentally friendly rodent control. There are all different things that cats can do and they work for their supper," Vogel said.

The individual or family adopting their working cat should provide water, food and shelter as payment for their cat's hard work

Vogel said. There are currently six cats ready for adoption.

"They are ready to perform and are asking for the chance to be interviewed and are ready to work."

The non-profit has enrolled close to 1,300 cats and kittens to date. Vogel said she's seen a difference. The organization is breaking the cycle of reproduction, where cats are living on the streets.

Welland and District Humane Society works with the feline initiative by assisting in the adoption process.

"We get comments from people all the time, 'Gee I just don't see the number of stray cats

roaming around,'" Vogel said.

Although the barn cat program isn't a new idea, Vogel said it's all in the way you market it.

You have to "make it appealing to the public and get the word out there," she said about the program.

"There are so many groups out there that are trying to assist this problem, so we are certainly not unique in this way. What I feel our strengths are is we offer a number of different programs and we focus on one community, because

resources are slim."

Port Colborne Feline Initiative is looking for a new building. It currently works out of volunteers' houses and a trailer. Vogel said the initiative has outgrown the trailer and is looking for someone in the community who has a building it could use.

To adopt a cat you can contact the Port Colborne Feline Initiative at 905-964-4778.

michelle.allenberg@postmedia.ca



MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Kristi Vogel of the Port Colborne Feline Initiative holds Mojo, a six-year-old cat waiting for adoption at the Welland Humane Society in the Seaway Mall.

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■ CRIME: Theft of farm animals leaves Port Colborne woman heartbroken

Thieves nab ducks, hens, roosters

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

A rooster named Mr. Fancy Pants and 45 of his fellow fowl are missing from a property in Port Robinson.

Jacqueline Dmytrow of Port Colborne said her pets were stolen sometime last night while she was at work.

"They were prepared. They knew when I wouldn't be here," she said of the thieves. "They didn't take any of the cages, so they brought something to put them in."

Her family has owned the farm in Port Robinson for about 50 years. The land is her "happy place," she said, and it's where she comes to be with her pets. The farm has horses, donkeys, ducks and chickens among other animal things," she said, wiping away tears.

All Dmytrow wants it to have her pets returned to her.

She said she contacted the humane society and Niagara Regional Police.

"I know the police are limited in what they can do. Stolen animals aren't high on their list of priorities and I know they can't go through everyone's backyard and barns looking for them," she said.

As of Monday afternoon, police said they have no suspects and are continuing to investigate.

Dmytrow asks anyone with information to contact investigators at 905-735-7811 or phone Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-8477

All the animals were pets, and Dmytrow said most had names. She spoke fondly of

the silkies rooster Mr. Fancy Pants, saying she would watch him and other birds play.

"It has a very distinct crow, it sounds like an old siren winding up and then tapering off," she said.

Since Dmytrow's pets have been missing, she hasn't been able to sleep and has been worried about their safety. She has contacted stores that sell duck feed to see if anyone was buying large amounts of feed. She also started calling butcher shops.

"They were traumatised by the night that they were taken and they could possibly be hurt, I mean, quite possibly some of them might be dead by now ... I can't understand how someone can do this. They are animals, they are living things," she said, wiping away tears.

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"I know the police are limited in what they can do. Stolen animals aren't high on their list of priorities and I know they can't go through everyone's backyard and barns looking for them," she said.

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Dmytrow asks anyone with

(TIPS).

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MICHELLE ALLENBERG
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Jacqueline Dmytrow of Port Colborne looks over some of the coops where she kept her chickens.

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■ NIAGARA REGIONAL EXHIBITION: Welland welcomes fall with annual tradition

NRE fares well in 163rd year

FRANKI IKEMAN
Postmedia Network

It's a 163-year-old tradition that the board of the Niagara Regional Exhibition refuses to let die.

The exhibition runs Thursday through Sunday and features horse and livestock displays, an agriculture show, a midway full of rides, food vendors and plenty of entertainment.

Despite a rainy Saturday, NRE board member Arthur Gill said attendance was a little bit higher than last year.

Amber Gilbert, first vice-president of the NRE, said the fair brought in more entertainment, new musical acts, two demolition

derbies and a full horse breed display this year to draw people in.

"We have a full crew that is fighting hard to keep the fair alive," Gilbert said.

The fair, aside from the typical attractions of rides, junk food and music, features a large agricultural component. Horse shows, cattle shows, goat shows, vegetable shows, poultry shows and much more comprise a large part of the Welland fair schedule.

Both Gill and Gilbert said it's important that people who may not be exposed to farming on a regular basis check the fair out.

"It's important that the people from today, the kids from today,

learn that your food doesn't just come from a grocery store shelf," Gilbert said. "It comes from a farm before it gets to that shelf."

"That's the main thing you've got to teach the people," said Gill. "We're lucky that we have the animals that we have."

Gilbert said she would like to see the fair continue to grow and equal historic highs in attendance. She said fair is already looking at ways to improve.

"We're already starting to plug away for next year, and see where we can improve next year, and we're always looking for volunteers."

Gilbert said there are several

committees that people are encouraged to join.

For more information on volunteering, contact the NRE at 905-735-6413 or email

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■ WINE FESTIVAL

Mayors get together to stomp out poverty

JULIE JOSCAK
Postmedia Network

Grape Juice flew while mayors, councillors, IceDogs, Grape Kings and kids tried to Stomp Out Poverty.

The annual Mayor's Invitational Grape Stomp has been part of the Niagara Wine Festival for years but this year a new element was added.

St. Catharines Mayor Walter Sendzik and Niagara Falls local mayors to a food collection drive.

Lord Mayor Pat Darte of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Mayor Douglas Joyner of West Lincoln, Mayor April Jeffs of Wainfleet, Mayor John Malone of Port Colborne and Mayor Walter Sendzik of St. Catharines took part in the messy tradition. Three councillors, Sergio Paone of Thorold, Bonnie Fokkens of Welland and Mike Strange of Niagara Falls, also took part.

The participants had 60 seconds to squish the grapes in the wine barrels with their bare feet. The juice was then measured to determine the winner.

Spectators in the front row had a hard time keeping clean as the grapes and juice started to fly.

St. Catharines Mayor Walter Sendzik took home the overall top prize for the best combination of grape stomping and collecting food.

"It's very gratifying," Sendzik said. "You look at someone like Mike Strange or Lord Mayor Darte, and you don't know what their capabilities are. You go in kind of nervous and it makes you smile a little harder."

Grace Farms of Ontario donated the grapes for the event.

This was the first year a food drive was part of the grape stomp, everyone liked the idea, and it looks like it is here to stay, Sendzik said.

"I think this is a new concept that we

are going to continue to do annually," he said. "I just think the community really came out. I want to thank the people that came out," he reported.

St. Catharines and Thorold Community Care on my behalf. It all goes to a good cause; it's a great event."

Maloney came out ahead in the food drive, collecting 3,178 kilograms for Port Cares.

Sendzik came second with 933 kg for Community Care St. Catharines. Joyner came third with 227 kilograms for West Lincoln Community Care while Paone came fourth with 222 kg for Community Care of Thorold. Lord Mayor Pat Darte came fifth with 216 kg for Newark Neighbours and Fokkens came sixth with 215 kg for Open Arms Mission.

Thorold Mayor Mike Strange and Jeffs came seventh with 103 kg for the Volunteer Firefighter Christmas Basket Program and Strange raised 42 kg of food for Project SHARE.

The total weight of the food collected for each participant was used to calculate a base amount of juice to start the grape stomp.

For example, Sendzik collected 933 kg of food. St. Catharines has a population of 131,400, so Sendzik was given just 1.57 ounces of juice to start his stomp. Darte collected 216 kg of food from a group of 150 people, so in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Darte started the grape stomp with 3.08 ounces.

Other stompers included representatives from Niagara first responders who participated in the Local Hero's Stomp. Three members of the Niagara IceDogs, Ben Jones, Hayden Davis and Christian Mirti, had their own stomp. Past and present Grape Kings, Kevin Buis of Glenlake Vineyards and Jamie Slingerland of Pillitteri Winery, participated in a grape stomp. There was a stomp for children.



The top three finalists, left, councillor Sergio Paone of Thorold, St. Catharines mayor Walter Sendzik and councillor Mike Strange of Niagara Falls, pose for a photo following the annual Mayor's Invitational Grape Stomp. The competition was to see who could stomp out the most juice during the Niagara Wine Festival in Montebello Park, St. Catharines on Saturday.

JULIE JOSCAK / POSTMEDIA NETWORK

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ALISON LANGLEY
Postmedia Network

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IMPORT NEWS ■ THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

their hand-made and vintage wares at Heartland Forest from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. as part of Etsy: Made in Canada.

The Niagara marketplace will include original art, jewelry, fibre, decor and more from 40 Niagara artisans, said Erin Snow, event co-ordinator.

This is the first time Niagara Falls has hosted a Made in Canada event.

"We can't wait to demonstrate what a passionate group of artisans live right here in Niagara, so make sure you come by to see us in action," said Snow, who offers aromatherapy products and essential oils through her Etsy store Chasing Clouds.

Several food trucks will be at Heartland Forest for the event as well as local wineries and breweries.

Snow said Heartland Forest was a perfect fit for the event.

"One of the things that is important to me is working with non-profit organizations and Heartland Forest, to some, is an unknown gem. I want to bring awareness to them as well."

Launched in 2005, Etsy is an online marketplace for hand-made items.

alison.langley@summedia.ca
Twitter: @mifalstangley

staff and executive vice-president is being appointed to chief of staff at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, in addition to his existing position.

The new appointment will take effect Oct. 13.

The shared leadership role is expected to help him build a high-performing physician culture for both organizations, St. Joseph's said in a news release.

"Tom is a remarkable clinician, researcher, and leader, who is also renowned in the province," said Kevin Smith, who also plays a dual role as chief executive officer of both organizations.

"Enabling him to work with both teams of physicians in the region will no doubt advance patient care in our health system."



NHS chief of staff to take on dual role in Hamilton

Dr. Tom Stewart is expanding his leadership role in health care.

The Niagara Health System chief of



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■ ARTS

'This is going to transform how we experience the arts'

KAREN WALTER
Postmedia Network

Brock University's new downtown arts school is one of the most important milestones of St. Catharines revitalization, president Jack Lightstone said.

The university envisioned a downtown that could be an arts, culture, entertainment and digital media hub when it decided to move, he said.

"We would be part of something that was greater than ourselves."

Lightstone was speaking to hundreds of people who gathered outside the Marilyn L. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts for its grand opening Friday.

The \$15-million, 14,000-sq-ft St. Catharines Arts Centre, designed by Diamond Schmitt Architects, is inside a renovated Canada Hair Cloth building, which dates to the late 1800s, and newly built spaces.

About 500 students in drama, visual arts, music and arts and culture begin classes in the facility on Sept. 9.

Lightstone said the vision to create a new hub for the city started with former dean of humanities Rosemary Drage Hale. He said to have a vision and move it to an actual project takes a lot of work and support from the city, province and community members believed in it.

While there was a lot of skepticism, Lightstone said hope and determination replaced skepticism when Marilyn L. Walker, a textile artist, and her husband Norris made a "transformative" gift of \$15 million.

"When they made that commitment, everyone knew we had no choice but to make it happen," Lightstone said.

Marilyn Walker was in attendance large

Friday, but her health prevented her from making a speech. Husband Norris Walker said that the school is a world-class facility that will inspire students and faculty.

BY THE NUMBERS

95,000 — Square feet of the facility

\$45.5 million — Cost of the building

500 — Number of students

Friday, but her health prevented her from making a speech. Husband Norris Walker said that the school is a world-class facility that will inspire students and faculty.

"Marilyn and I are excited to have played a small part in this endeavour," he said, after which the couple received a standing ovation.

Mayor Walter Sendzik said Marilyn Walker transformed a school and a city. "That is a legacy that will never be forgotten," he said to her.

Sendzik said a lot of people didn't know the depth, skill and creativity of Brock's arts school when it was sequestered on campus. Now the city will be energized by arts and creativity.

"This is going to transform how we experience the arts."

The Ontario government contributed \$26.1 million towards the facility's total \$45.5-million cost.

St. Catharines MPP Jim Bradley said the school is a wonderful asset and investment in the future because of the students who will use it.

It joins other new developments that are transforming the downtown. Bradley said anyone who hasn't been to St. Catharines in a while and drives down Hwy. 406 are blown away by what they see in the heart of the city.

"There's a new feeling of optimism in downtown St. Catharines."

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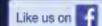
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■ MUSIC

Niagara Rhythm tops NMA nominations

JOHN LAW
Postmedia Network

Veteran Niagara-on-the-Lake musician Steve Goldberger and St. Catharines folk rockers Odds & Ends lead the way for the eighth annual Niagara Music Awards.

Goldberger, one of the region's busiest guitarists with his band the Niagara Rhythm Section, is up for eight awards, including album and songwriter of the year.

"I can say it's always a thrill to have one's work acknowl-

edged by our peers," says Goldberger, who performs regularly at the Old Winery in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Newcomers Odds & Ends are close behind with seven nominations, including folk artist and new group of the year. The trio of Ariella

Aburto, Jay Falone and Pat Shea were "thrilled" to get the news last Thursday.

"Being a musician or a vocalist feels very vulnerable most of the time," says Aburto. "You're constantly putting your heart and soul out there with very little feedback."

2015 NMA NOMINEES

Album of the Year:

A Book for Wanderers
Kayd
Glass Apple Bonzai
Mudmen
Rosie Davies
Sarah Boulton
Scott Money
Steve Goldberger

Adult Contemporary Artist:

Battered Eggs
Jamie Derek Moore
Sarah Boulton

Country Artist:

Jamie Derek Moore
Mike Lafair
Steve Goldberger

Engineer:

Al Jandero
Glass Apple Bonzai
Steve Goldberger
Thomas Weller

Female Vocalist:

Ashley Vince
Blindside Incentive
Kayd
Gail Davidson
Jessica Wilson

Male Vocalist:

Ladee Lirix
Mel Monaco
Odds & Ends
Sammy Merrelli
Under the Red

Folk Artist:

Odds & Ends
Thomas Weller
Sarah Boulton

Heavy Metal Artist:

Blindside Incentive
Crutch

Hip Hop Artist:

Deeze
Lady Larix
Joe Ari

Instrumental Artist:

Al Jandero
Bryan Sorensen
Jamie Derek Moore
Zach Preston
Zac Tiessen

Jazz Artist:

Gail Davidson
Road Waves
Josh Mills

Male Vocalist:

A Book for Wanderers
Josh Mills
Glass Apple Bonzai
Steve Goldberger

New Artist:

Bryan Sorensen
Christian Di Stefano
Deeze
Josh Mills
Ladee Lirix
Thomas Weller
Visca

New Group:

Blind Side Intersection
Left in Line
Odds & Ends
Road Waves
Tides
Under the Red

Original Group:

Blame the Neighbour
Blindside Incentive
Mudmen

Odds & Ends:

Under the Red

Original Song:

Agatha Lafay
Bryan Sorensen
Mudmen

Odds & Ends:

Rob Graham Band
Sammy Morelli
Steve Goldberger

Progressive Rock:

Battered Eggs
Blind Side Incentive
Jah Corridones
Left in Line

Promoter:

Crutch
Glass Apple Bonzai
Steve Goldberger

Progressive Rock:

Battered Eggs
Blind Side Incentive
Jah Corridones
Left in Line

Promoter:

Eric Dickson (Indoor Shoes)
Rafik Guirguis

Rising Star:

Christian Di Stefano
Ladee Lirix
Mel Monaco

Odds & Ends:

Rob Graham Band
SwishSwish Styles
Tides

Zac Tiessen

Rock Artist:

Back in the Daze
Blame the Neighbour

A Book for Wanderers

Crutch
Road Waves
Tides

Under the Red

Songwriter of the Year:

A Book for Wanderers
Glass Apple Bonzai
Jessica Wilson
Josh Mills

Musician of the Year:

Odds & Ends
Rob Graham Band
Sammy Morelli
Sarah Boulton

Steve Goldberger

Unsung Hero (Community

recognition)

Bunnie Brandt
Darnell Spilchuk
Eric Conlon
Kyle Whittaker
John Navarulli

Venue:

The Sanctuary (Ridgeway)
Taps (Niagara Falls)

Video:

Crutch
Joe Ari
Mel Monaco
Visca

World Music:

Mudmen
Zach Preston



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MUSIC: New venue proves popular after old stage damaged by flood

Niagara Concerts continues its comeback

JONH LAW
Postmedia Network

Two years after nearly pulling the plug, Niagara Concerts is enjoying a resurgence.

At least it feels like one to concert manager John Anstruther. Even if crowds can't match the constant sellouts of a decade ago, there's optimism heading into the

company's 42nd season instead of the uncertainty of recent years.

It turns out one of the biggest setbacks may have inadvertently saved the local institution.

In July of 2013, a vicious storm flooded the 1,000-seat theatre at Kingston College on Epworth Circle, the company's home for decades. The theatre immediately closed for mould removal, forcing

Niagara Concerts to find a new home for its 2013 season.

The Scotiabank Convention Centre was the only real option in Niagara Falls, recalls Anstruther. He wasn't sure how the company's aging subscribers would handle the move. He was worried it would be Niagara Concerts' final season.

It became a fruitful partnership.

Audiences liked the new venue, and the convention centre loved adding concerts to its schedule. In turn, convention centre staff took over much of the promotion and production.

"It's given us a breath of fresh air," he says. "We know things are being done and being looked after. We get an issue, they deal with it immediately. Every (performer) we've had there up to this point is really pleased with everything that's gone on."

Unlike past seasons, concertgoers now have reserved seating, with plenty of parking. The result is more subscribers this season, with a younger demographic showing up.

"I was worried, I thought we'd be even lower with subscriptions," says Anstruther, "but it's turned around quite nicely."

"We're not where we were four or five years ago with a thousand (subscribers), but we're over 500 now, which has taken the edge off."

The new season kicks off Friday with Lighthouse, the Canadian art rock band behind *Sunny Days* and *Pretty Lady* who won three straight Junos for best Canadian group of the year from 1972 to 1974.

WHAT: Niagara Concerts 2015/16 Season

WHEN: Sept. 25 to May 14

WHERE: Scotiabank Convention Centre, 6815 Stanley Ave., Niagara Falls

TICKETS: scnigara.ticketpro.ca or 1-888-655-9090

From there it will be returning Niagara Concerts favourites Lunch at Allen's Oct. 29, Matt Dusk Nov. 28, The Leahys March 19 and Jarvis Christian May 14.

Partnering with the convention centre has Anstruther thinking a more diverse schedule is possible soon.

"I'm hoping this is step one of probably a three- or four-year process to try and get in some more popular talent for people in the 35-to-60 demographic."

It could also lead to an expanded season, but Anstruther is proceeding with caution.

"We have to prove ourselves, that we can put enough butts in the seat that we at least cover costs. As a nonprofit, we can't take a loss."

john.law@sunmedia.ca

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- Gasoline
- Lawn care products
- Motor oil
- Pool chemicals
- Paint
- Propane tanks
- Solvents
- Sharps (Syringes)

Unacceptable Materials

- Ammunition
- Ballasts
- Commercial or Industrial waste
- Explosives
- Electronics
- PCBs
- Pathological waste
- Smoke detectors
- Radioactive waste

Space provided through a partnership between industry and Ontario municipalities to support waste diversion programs.

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fall savings!

Del Monte SWEET PEAS
79¢
SAVINGS UP TO 1.25
REG. 1.25, 325 G.
ADDED 45¢ 1.05 BAG OR 4.05 2.00 L.

Del Monte Summer Crisp WHOLE KERNEL CORN
SAVINGS UP TO 1.25
REG. 1.25, 325 G.
ADDED 45¢ 1.05 BAG OR 4.05 2.00 L.

JANES PUB STYLE
Chicken Breast Strips
SAVINGS UP TO 1.25
REG. 1.25, 125 G.
ADDED 45¢ 1.05 BAG OR 4.05 2.00 L.

Pepperidge Farm ASSORTED CREME
SAVINGS UP TO 1.25
REG. 1.25, 125 G.
ADDED 45¢ 1.05 BAG OR 4.05 2.00 L.

4-pack rainbow peppers
\$2
SAVINGS UP TO 1.25
REG. 2.00, 1.05 BAG OR 4.05 2.00 L.

canned vegetables

Italiano Thick Slice Bread
\$2
SAVINGS UP TO 1.25
REG. 1.25, 325 G.
ADDED 45¢ 1.05 BAG OR 4.05 2.00 L.

breaded chicken
HALF PRICE!
749

bread or buns or bagels

bacon
HALF PRICE!
198
SAVINGS UP TO 1.25
REG. 1.25, 375 G.
ADDED 45¢ 1.05 BAG OR 4.05 2.00 L.

Carver's Choice Bacon
375 g

Sundae
SAVINGS UP TO 1.25
REG. 1.25, 200 G.
ADDED 45¢ 1.05 BAG OR 4.05 2.00 L.

Chapman's Sundae
SAVINGS UP TO 1.25
REG. 1.25, 200 G.
ADDED 45¢ 1.05 BAG OR 4.05 2.00 L.

Dad's COOKIES
SAVINGS UP TO 1.25
REG. 1.25, 200 G.
ADDED 45¢ 1.05 BAG OR 4.05 2.00 L.

Planters DRY ROASTED PEANUTS
HALF PRICE!
199
SAVINGS UP TO 1.25
REG. 1.25, 200 G.
ADDED 45¢ 1.05 BAG OR 4.05 2.00 L.

LL cream
1.97
SAVINGS UP TO 1.25
REG. 1.25, 1.05 L.
ADDED 45¢ 1.05 L.

Prices in effect until September 29th, 2015, while quantities last.

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